

this on October 24. At that time you told me you wanted to step aside. I told you then that I certainly understood your reasons for desiring to return to private life.

Your job is one of the most difficult in government. You have worked hard for freedom of expression; and yet, at times, as you have ruled against certain grants that you felt were beyond the bounds of common decency, you have been criticized.

I thank you for the integrity and commitment that you have brought to the National Endowment for the Arts.

No two people can agree in every instance on every grant or indeed on what is good art; in fact some of the art funded by the NEA does not have my enthusiastic approval. I expect some did not have yours, but this should not obscure the overall work of the NEA nor your contribution to it.

I thank you and wish you and your family well for a very bright future.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

*Mr. President:*

Last October I told you of my desire to return to private life. Accordingly, I submit my resignation effective May 1, 1992.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve you and the arts; you know how much your personal support has meant to me during these difficult times. You and your administration have accomplished a great deal and I'm sure the best is yet to come.

Sincerely,

JOHN E. FROHNMEYER

*Note: These letters were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 21 but were not issued as White House press releases.*

## Nomination of Sigmund A. Rogich To Be United States Ambassador to Iceland

*February 21, 1992*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Sigmund A. Rogich, of Nevada, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland. He would succeed Charles E. Cobb, Jr.

Currently Mr. Rogich serves as an Assistant to the President for Public Events and Initiatives at the White House in Washington, DC. Prior to this, he founded and

served as the president of R&R Advertising in Las Vegas and Reno, NV, and Salt Lake City, UT, 1973-89.

Mr. Rogich graduated from the University of Nevada-Reno (B.A., 1967). He was born May 17, 1944, in Iceland. Mr. Rogich has two children and resides in Washington, DC.

## Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Confirmation of Andrew H. Card, Jr., as Secretary of Transportation

*February 21, 1992*

The President is delighted that the United States Senate unanimously voted to confirm Andrew Card to be Transportation Secretary. As Transportation Secretary, Andrew Card will be a leader in the adminis-

tration's drive to create jobs, increase economic growth, and prepare America for a bright future.

I am sure that Transportation Secretary Card will ensure that America continues to

travel safely home and abroad and that the Nation's transportation systems are ready to move into the 21st century.

## Remarks to the Southern Republican Leadership Conference in Charleston, South Carolina

February 21, 1992

*The President.* Thank you, thank you. It is great to be here in Charleston, I'll tell you. I'm delighted to be back in the South. And may I say to our Governor, my dear friend Carroll Campbell, we're grateful for your hospitality and even more for your leadership as one of the finest Governors in the entire country, a real leader, Carroll Campbell. And I might say how pleased I am that Governor Campbell will serve as our national cochairman of the campaign and once again as southern regional chairman. I couldn't be in better hands, and thank you very much.

May I thank the Citadel Bulldog Band over there for some fine music. I appreciate it very much. And this is a real star-studded event. And I want to salute the Governors here today, past and present. I know Governor Jim Martin's here from North Carolina. And Members of the United States Congress, I think four or five Congressmen with us here today, a couple of them with us right here: Congressman Ravenel, hometown boy, and others. And other distinguished guests. And may I say that an early supporter and friend of mine is running for the Senate here, Tommy Hartnett. And I want to see him elected to the United States Senate—former Member of Congress. And I also want to acknowledge key members of our political team: Rich Bond is with us, our new chairman, and Jeanie Austin, doing a superb job. And of course, the conference chairman Martha Edens' superb work here. Keep up the good work, and thank you very much, Martha.

And it's great to be here in South Carolina, host for the first time, but I'm sure not the last time, of this prestigious Southern Republican Leadership Conference. Four years ago, the South led our party to a great victory across the entire country. And this year, the South will lead us to

victory in November 1992.

And just to be perfectly clear about it, I am confident of winning the Presidency for 4 more years. I come here fired up and confident. But I'll need your support. We have much to do these next few months because we have much to do these next few years. Together, we can finish what we've started and move this country forward.

Let me open with a true story from my own past about the old days, Midland, Texas, 1956, trying to organize—I hear Ernie Angelo over there—[laughter]—trying to organize a Republican Party. And this is the gospel truth. I was a precinct judge, a poll judge, polling judge at primary election time, the first time the Republican Party had ever held a primary in Midland County. And Barbara and I were there alternating at the polls, poll watchers. She and I voted Republican, and we represented two-thirds of the Republican vote that year, gospel truth. The only other guy that voted was a slightly inebriated Democrat. He thought he was voting in the—[laughter]—and you can go back and look up the records.

But some of you all are old enough to remember those days. And sometimes if you tried to register Republican, they'd tell you not to bother because there was no Republicans to vote for in the primary. Or times, out and out, there was intimidation, sometimes violence. And we went through a lot back then. And in fact, I'm sure many of you can share similar experiences.

And you say, well, why did we do it? Why did we build a Republican Party in the South when some said it was impossible? We did it because we wanted change, and we did it because we believed in some fundamental values: faith and family, responsi-